underground water which can be termed as ill-effect. However, this is not the normal practice to recommend such high doses of nitrogen in the light textured soils. Moreover, improved water use management practices are recommended to check leaching of nutrients and pollution of ground waters.

(b) Government is promoting use of compost, manure and bio-fertilizers in conjunction with chemical fertilizers as a balanced fertilization concept in order to maintain fertility of the soils. There is no separate cultivable land specified for exclusive use of these supplementary sources of nutrients.

(c) Government is encouraging production of bio-fertilizers and compost by providing financial incentives for setting up bio-fertilizer production units and compost plants for processing of city bio-degradable waste into compost.

Agriculture Training Centres

6. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are envisaged to revitalise the extension services in the States;

(b) whether Government will consider supporting the setting up of regional/district agriculture training Centres for farmers and extension works by funding through a special programme for the purpose;

(c) as the States spend large amounts on salaries of extension personnel whether the lack of infrastructure and lack of funds has reduced the effectiveness of the extension services;

(d) what steps Government envisage to support States; and

(e) whether a special Central scheme will be considered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) With a view to revitalise the extension services in the State, the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation have been implementing the following schemes:

(1) Strengthening of Extension Services
(2) Human Resource Development—Training Support to Agriculture
(3) Information Support/Management Information System
(4) Women in Agriculture
(5) National Agricultural Technology Porject (NATP) funded by World Bank
(6) Food Security Programme funded by UNDP
(7) Danish and Dutch assisted programmes on Extension and Training of Women in Agriculture.

(b) Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has been pilot-testing the Innovations in Technology Dissemination (ITD) Components of the National Agricultural Technology Project funded by World Bank in 6 States (4 districts in each State), wherein State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institutes (SAMETIS) are being established or strengthened. Besides these, Indian Council of Agricultural Research has established 261 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) at district level which take up training of farmers and extension personnel.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. In order to supplement extension efforts of States, a number of measures are being taken through various extension schemes for training and capacity building of the extension workers.

(e) At present, there is no such proposal.